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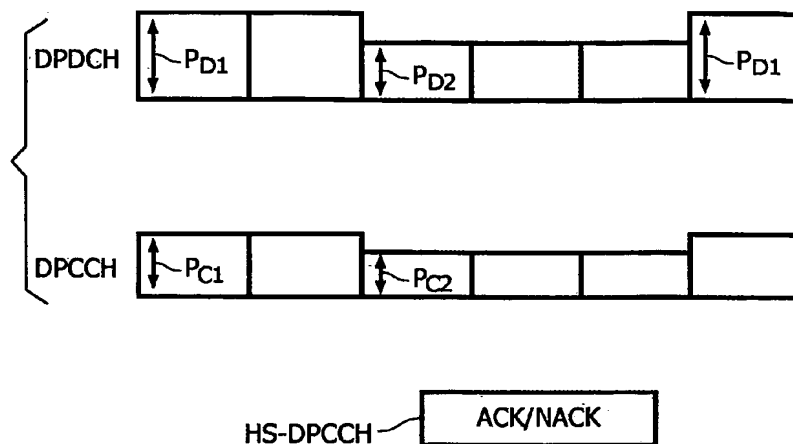
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BAKER, Matthew, P., J. [GB/GB]; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB). MOULSLEY, Timothy, J. [GB/GB]; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).
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(54) Title: POWER MANAGEMENT IN MOBILE TERMINALS TO ALLOW TRANSMISSION OF ACK/NACK SIGNALS



(57) Abstract: A communication system, for example UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System), comprises a base station and a plurality of mobile stations. In normal operation the mobile station continuously makes uplink transmissions on certain spread spectrum channels (DPDCH, DPCCH). The maximum allowed power (P_{max}) for these uplink transmissions is specified. However there are occasions when for example receiving packet data from the base station, the receiving mobile station has to transmit an acknowledgement (ACK) or a Non-acknowledgement (NACK) at a power level specified by the base station. In order to keep the transmit power of the mobile station within the maximum allowed power, the total power required to transmit an ACK or NACK in parallel with the continuous uplink signals is determined and if this exceeds P_{max} then at least the power DPDCH and DPCCH channels are scaled to allow sufficient power for the transmission of an ACK or NACK. The power scaling is carried-out based on the power required for whichever one of ACK or NACK requires the most power. This avoids reducing the amount of time available to a mobile whether an ACK or NACK should be transmitted.

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